

# KOORI • MURRI • GOORI AND PALAWA STORYLINES

## THE MYTH OF TERRA NULLIUS 1770–1825

Dharawal and Eora people observe foreigners landing in their countries. Unknown to them, it has been decided 20,000 km away that their country is now the possession of Great Britain.

Bundjalung, and other coastal Kooris, observe an unknown object sailing along the coast. It is the 'Endeavour'.  
 Captain Cook\* sights Wollumbin (in Bundjalung country), and renames it 'Mt Warning', and calls Gulaga 'Mt Dromedary'.  
 Captain Cook lands on uninhabited island off the tip of Cape York. He claims the eastern half of Australia for Britain using the doctrine 'terra nullius' – land belonging to no-one.  
 1770

British invade Eora and Dharuk countries. Cadigal and Bidjigal groups resist by punishing British people that break Koori law.  
 1788

Smallpox epidemic, brought by the invaders, kills at least half of Eora people. Only a few Cadigal people survive.  
 1789

Kooris are stopped from speaking their languages. Most British do not learn the Koori languages so that a 'pidgin' develops, based largely on English, and spoken by both sides. Many Kooris become proficient in English.

Aboriginal peoples fight many battles defending their countries against the invaders. This delays the spread of British occupation.

Some Kooris, for many different reasons, cooperate with the invaders. There is little idea of what might be the effects of the British occupation.

Aboriginal peoples far from the first invasion see the British moving through their countries, guided by Kooris unknown to them. Those British 'explorers' not using Koori guides go hungry in some of the richest environments. Some, such as Burke\* and Wills\*, will starve to death.

The 'explorers' are occasionally violent and are sometimes resisted for breaking local law. Unknown to the Aboriginal peoples, they are an advance party for the British invaders. They are also renaming Koori countries.

### PEMULWUY LIFE STORY

1770 Pemulwuy, a Bidjigal of the Eora people, is about 15 years old.

1788–90 Pemulwuy leads several attacks on the invaders in the Sydney area.

1790 Pemulwuy kills Governor Phillip's\* servant for treachery and Gov. Phillip orders indiscriminate reprisals.

1797 Pemulwuy continues to lead attacks on the British. He is wounded, captured, but manages to escape.

1798 Pemulwuy attacks settlements at Parramatta, Toongabbie, Kissing Point and Lane Cove, in Sydney.

1801 Pemulwuy is outlawed by Governor King\*.

1802 Pemulwuy is shot dead. His head is sent to England where it still remains in the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

Strong resistance by Dharuk, Gamaraigal and other Koori peoples.  
 1790s–1800s

'Native Institution' set up for Koori children at Parramatta – first attempt to change Koori cultures by separating children.  
 1814

Governor Macquarie's\* proclamation of Martial Law. Massacre at Appin.  
 1816

Mission in country of the Awaba people begun by Rev. Threlkeld\*, who studies Koori languages and cultures.  
 1820s

1822 Windradyne leads attacks on the invaders, is captured and briefly imprisoned.

1820s More British move onto Windradyne's people's land; Kooris take stock for food and are killed in reprisals.

1815 Windradyne observes the building of a road into his country and the establishment of Bathurst.

Martial law declared by Governor Brisbane\* against Wiradjuri people west of Mt York NSW.  
 1824

1824 Some of Windradyne's family are killed by the British. He leads several groups in organised guerrilla warfare. Martial law is declared – Koori men, women and children are shot on sight. He offers peace to Governor Brisbane\* to save his people from destruction.

### WINDRADYNE LIFE STORY

1770 Windradyne is born in northern Wiradjuri country.